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Abſtract of an Act for imploying the Manufacturers, and incouraging the Conſumption of Raw Silk and Mohair Yarn, by prohibiting the wearing of Buttons and Button holes made of Cloth, Serge, or other Stuffs.

FROM and after the nine and twentieth Day of September, which ſhall be in the Year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and twenty two, it ſhall not be lawful for any Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, within the Kingdom of Great Britain, to uſe or wear on any Clothes, Garments, or Apparel whatſoever, any Buttons or Button holes made of or bound with Cloth, Serge, Drugget, Friae, Camblet, or any Stuffs, whereof Clothes or wearing Garments are uſually made; and if any Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, within the Kingdom of Great Britain, ſhall uſe or wear any Buttons or Button-holes, made of or bound with Cloth, Serge, Drugget, Frize, Camblet, or other Stuffs, as aforeſaid, ſuch Perſon or Perſons, being thereof lawfully convicted by the Oath of one or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, or by Confeſſion of the Party, ſhall forfeit for every Dozen of ſuch Buttons or Button-holes, ſo uſed or worn, the Sum of Forty Shillings, or in Proportion for every leſſer Quantity of ſuch Buttons and Button-holes.

For the more eaſy Conviction of Offenders againſt this Act, and for the more eaſy Recovery of the Penalties and Forfeitures aforeſaid, it ſhall and may be lawful, to and for any one or more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace of the County, Riding, City, Town, or Place, where any Offence ſhall be committed againſt this Act, or where ſuch Offender ſhall inhabit, to ſummon the Party or Parties accuſed, and upon his, her, or their Appearance or Contempt, to proceed to the Examination of the Matter of Fact, and upon due Proof made, either by Confeſſion of the Party, or the Oath or Oaths of one or more credible Perſon or Perſons, of any Offence committed contrary to this Act, to determine the ſame, and convict the Offender or Offenders thereof; and upon Conviction to cauſe the ſaid Penalties or Forfeitures, upon the Offender or Offenders refuſing to pay the ſame on Demand, at ſuch Time or Times as the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices ſhall appoint, by Warrant or Warrants under his or their Hands and Seals, to be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of ſuch Offender or Offenders, rendring to him, her, or them, the Overplus, if any ſhall be, the Charges of ſuch Diſtreſs and Sale being thereout firſt deducted; and all and every the Penalties and Forfeitures under this Act, ſhall be diſtributed and paid in manner following, (that is to ſay) one Moiety thereof to him, her, or them, on whoſe Oath or Oaths any Perſon or Perſons ſhall be convicted of any Offence againſt this Act, and the other Moiety to the Poor of the Pariſh where ſuch Offence or Offences ſhall be committed.

Provided, that it ſhall and may be lawful to or for any Party or Parties agrieved by the Order, Determination, or Warrant of ſuch Juſtice or Juſticer, as aforeſaid, to appeal to the Juſtices of the Peace at the next General Quarter-Seſſions, to be holden for the County, Riding, City, or Place where the ſaid Offence or Offences ſhall have been committed, giving eight Days Notice at the leaſt, of ſuch Appeal to the Proſecutor or Proſecutors.

All Offences againſt this Act to be proſecuted within one Month after ſuch Offence committed, and not after.

Nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend to any Clothes or Wearing Apparel made of Velvet.

Paris,